

### AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please replace paragraph [0001] with the following amended paragraph:

[0001] This application is a divisional of ~~Application No. 09/915,444 U.S. Pat. No. 6,623,787~~ filed July 26, 2001, titled "Method to Improve the Stability of Dispersions of Carbon," which is incorporated herein by reference in its entirety.

Please replace paragraph [0019] with the following amended paragraph:

[0019] Viscosity is used throughout this patent to mean the resistance a dispersion presents to flow when a given shear force is applied. It is typically measured in cPs or centipoises and can be defined as grams per centimeter second ((g/cm sec) and is measured using a variety of techniques including, but not limited to commercial viscometers. Examples of commercial viscometers include capillary flow viscometers and rotational viscometers. A typical aqueous dispersion of carbon, having pH of at least around 7.5 has a viscosity no greater than around 2 cps. The repulsive forces of the carbon particles decrease as the ionic strength increases which in turn causes an increase in the viscosity. A viscosity unstable solution after being exposed to a reactive atmospheric gas for a given period of time will have a viscosity around 10 cps or more. Measurements can be made using a ~~Brookfield~~ BROOKFIELD spinning viscometer with a VTA-SP35 hollow-cylindrical type spindle measuring 1.887 inches (4.792 cm) in diameter and 1.600 inches (4.064 cm) in length.

Please replace paragraph [0057] with the following amended paragraph:

[0057] Two identical graphite binder solutions were prepared at 4% solids. The pH of each solution was 9.8 and each contained 41 mN NH<sub>3</sub>. The solution conductance was 1.4 mS. The conductivity was measured using a Technika brand conductivity meter as described previously, at ambient conditions for temperature and humidity. The viscosities of the dispersions were 4 cps. Viscosity measurements were made using a ~~Brookfield~~ BROOKFIELD spinning viscometer with a VTA-SP35 hollow-cylindrical type spindle measuring 1.887 inches (4.792 cm) in diameter and 1.600 inches (4.064 cm) in length.